

Evening Public Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

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Philadelphia, Saturday, January 3, 1920

THE CENSUS

THE limitations of acquired habit rest
upon Congress and the government as
well as upon individuals. Otherwise the
national census that began yesterday
might have been made far more useful
and enlightening than any national cen-
sus ever was in the past.

The general count is intended to pro-
vide a record of the population and data
relative to the value and distribution of
wealth and property. Its by-product will
be valuable information indicative of
vocational activities in all parts of the
country.

These are uncertain times. Everybody
is trying to tell us what "America
wants." If a few additional spaces had
been left on the census blanks we might
know within a few months just what the
people actually think of the war and the
policy of nations of Mr. Wilson and
Mr. Lodge of Shanghai and the proposed
French alliance and other issues of
the first magnitude.

Such a departure from precedent would
have required some imagination in the
Washington bureau and in Congress.
And that, of course, is why it was not
attempted.

ISOLATING CAMDEN

EFFICIENCY is a fashion which, like
high heels and the checked suit, can
be overdone.

Because traffic engineers of the P. R.
T. are enthusiastic practitioners of the
sort of efficiency that is supposed to cut
down operating costs, a troublesome gap
has been created between the Philadel-
phia street car lines and the ferries.
Oddly enough, the first cry of objection
has not risen in this city nor has it been
heard in Camden. The business organi-
zations of Atlantic City have complained.
The practice of halting half the subway
trains at Second street, it appears, is
causing great inconvenience and trouble
to commuters who live at the shore.

The P. R. T. finds that it can save
current by turning half its trains back
at Second street. The practice, the offi-
cials say, is due to the fact that only a
small number of subway travelers are
bound for Jersey. They are expected to
wait for a ferry train or walk from
Second street to the boats.

Long ago the P. R. T. found that a
great deal of electric current was re-
quired to propel trolley cars up the stiff
grade from Delaware avenue to Second
street. The loop at the top of the Mar-
ket street hill was established, and since
then passengers going back and forward
between trolleys and ferry houses have
had to hike regularly over a sort of no-
man's land and climb a hill that was too
troublesome for the P. R. T. motors.

It isn't easy to change the transit com-
pany's mind. If the people of Atlantic
City and Camden are wise they will keep
their patience and put new pressure on
the committees that are supposed to be
making a way for the Delaware bridge.

ALLEN HAS THE RIGHT IDEA

GOVERNOR ALLEN'S plan for a
court of industrial relations in Kan-
sas is conceived in the right spirit.

Its purpose is to settle industrial dis-
putes. The governor proposes, not that
the court shall consist of representatives of
labor, capital and the public, but that it
shall consist of three qualified judges
with certain functions to perform in the
interests of the whole community.

This is the only way to secure a proper
court. The public always has to pay the
bills. Two judges committed to the in-
terest of labor and of capital would al-
ways outvote the judge committed merely
to the public interest, and the public
would be helpless.

The nearer the industrial court can
come to the civil and criminal courts in
its constitution the more perfectly will it
do its work.

BACK TO BARBARISM

SHERIFF PETERS, of Chicago, who
defied public opinion and the govern-
ment of Illinois yesterday and perpe-
trated shocking outrage by executing a
condemned man in the presence of 200
howling and derisive felons, ought to be
kicked out of office without delay.

Nothing so stupid and brutal as the
incident at the Chicago county jail is re-
corded in the recent history of Ameri-
can prisons. The sheriff was determined,
he declared, to give his prisoners an ex-
hibition of retributive justice in its
actual, dreadful culmination. What he
did was to invite the indecent mirth of
fiat and hardened criminals and send
huddler of horror over the country.

It was a demonstration in psychol-
ogy, said the Chicago jailer, after he
disconnected the prison telephone to
ward off orders from the governor of the
state. "Prisoners are coddled too much
everywhere. I wanted to let them see
what happens to a murderer."

Everybody knows that there has been
too much coddling of prisoners. Warden
McKenty has been having proof of this
in the Eastern Penitentiary. After years
of effort to help imprisoned men, he has

a belligerent mob of snarling ingrates on
his hands. The Chicago experiment was
futile and horrible and fantastic. It
proved merely that a jailer now and then
can be even a little more callous than the
men in his charge.

EXTINCTION OF SMITH'S
REGIME ENDS A SORDID ERA

Significance of Mr. Moore's Inauguration
Is Not Merely Personal: It is a
Whole System, as Well as the
Vares, Which Is Overthrown

ALTHOUGH the Smith administration,
which ends on Monday, has become
synonymous with misrule, it has no ex-
clusive right to that unsavory distinction.
The system of favoritism and
selfish greed maintained by the authority
of the Vares was quite as free from origi-
nality as it was from subscription to the
principles of decent government.

For the last four years Philadelphia
has been afflicted with a regime which
perhaps differed in degree of ignominy
from a line of desolating predecessors.
There was, perhaps, more insolence in
the offenses of the expiring administration.
Outrages in diverse branches of
the government were perhaps more fla-
grantly committed than at times in the
past.

But the spirit animating the misdeeds
can be traced far back into the city's his-
tory. Smith-Vare domination was con-
sistent with its origins. Among the
sources which the average Philadelphian
will have no difficulty in identifying are
the members of the old "Hog Combine,"
the despotic McManes, "Iz" Durham and
McNichol.

These factors in the degradation of the
town and the various Mayors who an-
swered their behests were exponents of
a venerable but unvarnished system.
The city's chief executives might change,
but for long periods there was little al-
teration in the structure of misgovernment.
Thomas B. Smith was one of a
number of figurehead legates of a testa-
ment drawn up more than a generation
ago by powerful corruptionists, who re-
garded the city as a rich field for selfish
exploitation.

The interesting feature of the im-
mediate situation is that the public has
broken that crooked will!

It is therefore no ordinary eviction
which will take place when Mr. Smith
surrenders the seals of office to Mr. Ham-
pton Moore on Monday. The new Mayor
is not at all in the direct usurping line
of descent. It was not alone the Vares
and their cohorts which he so vigorously
fought during his campaign, but a dis-
graceful, dishonest and tyrannical system
of which they were but contemporary
representatives.

Whether it was a Porter, a Martin, a
Durham or a McNichol pulling the reins
of bossism, the public did not greatly
care. This indifference was less the re-
sult of moral apathy than of a sense of
deplorable realities.

The system of exploiting the police,
of struggling competition in contracts,
of generally looting the municipality for
the benefit of cabals was strongly
entrenched.

Granting, if need be, that the lack of
any partisan political balance here has
at times caused the public to be over-
tolerant of abuses, the fact remains that
the comparatively rare opportunities for
effective revolt were eagerly seized. It
is not to be forgotten that in the days of
the "gas steal" nooses were carried into
the Council chambers.

When John Weaver, successor of the
unspokeable Ashbridge, repudiated his
cabinet, a wave of hope stirred the great
proportion of the public which is decent.
But fake reform was abroad in those
days. Mr. Weaver and his advisers were
heavily by it. The upheaval was specu-
lative, but it was not basic. Gang rule
was reinstated and after a little shuff-
ling the bosses continued to work their
old dishonest way.

John E. Reubyn was well-meaning
and endowed with considerable perspi-
cacity. The Parkway, one of his pet pro-
jects, is proof of that. But the grip of
the plunderers was, if anything, tight-
ened during his administration.

It is the fashion, and one which is
thoroughly unfair, to cite the mayoralty
of Rudolph Blankenburg as evidence of
the inability of Philadelphia to purge
itself of corruption. The intent of the
executive was unimpeachable. He was
passionately eager to redeem the city.
He had courage and ability and yet he
failed.

The misfortunes of his regime are,
however, not to be legitimately ascribed
to the helplessness of virtue. There were
very definite reasons why Mr. Blanken-
burg was unable to carry out his task.
His frank, trustful nature inspired him
with undue confidence in the moral trans-
formation of men who were not to be re-
deemed overnight. Gangsters are like
some Indians. It is elimination alone
which will render them harmless.

Furthermore, the political complexion
of Councils, while the indefatigable re-
former was in office, was wholly unfa-
vorable to progress. The bitterly un-
friendly majority in that body was de-
termined to embarrass Mr. Blankenburg
at every turn. The success of this scheme
was pronounced.

Between the situation which confronted
the "reform Mayor" and that which Mr.
Moore now faces there is hardly even a
superficial resemblance. The incoming
executive has already administered a
crushing defeat to the long-vested inter-
ests which have been at the root of mal-
administration in Philadelphia. The over-
throw of the Vares is accompanied with
the downfall of the fundamentals which
made the Vares possible.

The new Council, with its majority,
small though it be, in Mr. Moore's favor,
is now so constituted that the public is
on the alert to sense any reversion to
the detestable practices of the past. The
merits of the single chamber at this turn
of the political wheel are obvious.

Moreover, while reform, in its vital
sense, is in line with Mr. Moore's char-
acter and aspirations, he is unaffiliated
with the mere show and almost invariably
futile aspects of municipal "redem-
ption." To his credit be it said that he is
a politician. By that denomination we
do not mean to imply the least resem-
blance to a Mayor who encourages venal-
ity among the police; to a Mayor whose
selfish interests may be served by mur-
der at the polls; to a Mayor who permits
no contracts to be awarded save to the

"interests," to a Mayor who finds it
easy to boost his bonding company; to a
Mayor who is apparently incapable of
experiencing any moral qualms for such
acts.

We mean, in short, that Thomas B.
Smith is not a politician nor are the
Vares, nor were Durham, McNichol and
Martin.

The gangs which throttled Philadel-
phia understood something of filling
their own pocketbooks; they were expert
in exhausting the municipal treasury;
they were adepts in fortifying an organi-
zation in which big and little main-
chancers profited according to their sta-
tion. They were less immoral than un-
moral, for ethical distinctions and civic
responsibilities had for them scant mean-
ing. Their ambitions were strictly mercen-
ary. To call them politicians is to mis-
use a term which implies some ac-
quaintance with the art and science of
government and to blacken, as it has so
often been blackened here, the excellent
name Republican.

It is the prime good fortune of Phila-
delphia that a politician, experienced,
adroit, hard-hitting, is about to take the
helm. The relief which this knowledge
brings is coupled with the welcome real-
ization that a whole era of municipal de-
basement is terminated with the extinc-
tion of the Smith administration. A
large-scale revolution is afoot. It is
the snapping of the infamous entail of
the grabbers which makes next Monday
memorable.

The rightful heir has a task of high
responsibilities and formidable difficulties
to perform. But whatever he makes of
his inheritance, the public is replete
with hope. And it is surely epochal.

ENTERS A LADY:

MISS LUCY PAGE GASTON, who has
filed nomination papers in South
Dakota and advertised for a campaign
manager, can have no more hope of the
presidency of the United States than
let us say, Mr. McAdoo or Senator Har-
ding. But, as an avowed candidate with
a desire to inspire a demonstration of
suffrage strength and suffrage motives
and as the standard-bearer for what she
believes to be woman's causes, Miss Gas-
ton demands attention. What is more,
she will receive it. Suffragists therefore
ought to be interested in a platform de-
vised and presented as a revelation of
the things which women voters are sup-
posed to desire and seek.

Miss Gaston's chief concern, as it is
apparent in her program, is with the
cigarette and community singing. One
she would encourage and elaborate as a
wholesome diversion for the people. The
first woman candidate for 1920 is founder
of the Anti-Cigarette League, but her
interests are broadening. A plank in
her platform demands a stricter censor-
ship of dancing, presumably by means
of a new constitutional amendment.
Moving pictures are to be improved and
women's styles in dress more carefully
regulated. There is nothing, so far, about
a national curfew or a governmen-
tally regulated diet for the masses.
Of the business of government, interna-
tional affairs, the law, politics or finance
Miss Gaston knows nothing and proudly
admits that she knows nothing. A Presi-
dent, she believes, should appoint com-
missions to report upon such matters
and govern herself according to recom-
mendations offered by such commissions.

Is all this trivial and unimportant?
It is not. The zealous lady, who is the
first to become a presidential candidate
since the early, stormy days of the suf-
frage fight, mirrors a habit of thought
that is becoming altogether too preva-
lent in the United States among over-
earnest men and women alike. It will
be unfortunate for the suffragists if
they become identified now or in the
future with the organized passion for
meddling in other people's lives which
sooner or later is going to make trouble
for those who encourage it.

We hope for much from the suffra-
gists. The women's leaders have not
indorsed Miss Gaston's candidacy. But
if they are wise they will do more than
ignore her and her platform. They
might follow the example of Mr. Quay
made historic by his telegram to Gov-
ernor Beaver and wire four words to
the only woman presidential candidate
now in the field:

"Dear Lucy: Don't talk."

Coming and Going

Director Hines says
investigation of the
overcrowded condition
of New Jersey trains will not be made
until travel again becomes normal. While
somehow suggests the story of a man who
couldn't mend his roof when it was raining
and saw no use in mending it when it wasn't
raining.

Governor-elect Edwards, of New Jer-
sey, finds hope in the fact that some states
in ratifying the eighteenth amendment used
the words "alcoholic liquors" instead of
"intoxicating liquors." This seems to be
a hope of about 2.75 cent.

"Wood will win in a walk," declares
Senator Moses. Moses may fancy himself
as a lawbreaker, but the President has al-
ready discounted him as a prophet.

The oldest hen in America died recently
at the age of thirty-two years. The first
egg she ever laid is about due to come out
of cold storage.

When Mr. Hall spoke of the "loyal le-
gion" in Council did he mean to infer that
as ten is to a legion so politics is to loyalty?
Or was he merely indulging in poetic license?

A hundred Camden saloonkeepers have
applied for licenses, putting up \$500 apiece.
Another case of faith without works.

One thing may be said for the wood
alcohol drinker: He takes no thought of
the morrow. And sometimes there isn't any.

Much of the opposition to prohibition
lies in the fear that 'Bacca will follow
Baecus.

The Chamber of Deputies is one spot the
Tiger intends to change.

The only skates that cut any of these
days are those that come in pairs.

The wise politician doesn't care who
makes the slate so that he may use the pencil.

Sober Second Thought is staging his
little congressional act.

MAYOR-ELECT MOORE'S LETTER

A Significant Framing of the Issue
Involved in the Council-
manic Line-Up

CONCERN over the councilmanic situ-
ation is settling down to a "watchful
waiting" basis. Messrs. Burch, Connell,
Devellin, Gans, Roper, Von Tager, Laine-
burner, Montgomery, Wadlin, Horn and
Patton, who were elected on the same ticket
with the Mayor-elect, have justified the
public confidence by standing true to their
guns regardless of the rumors of pressure
being brought upon some of them, and have
designated Richard Wadlin as their choice
for president. It is altogether possible under
this arrangement that Mr. Burch will be-
come chairman of the important finance
committee and that Council will be organ-
ized by those who have unhesitatingly pro-
claimed their faith in the new adminis-
tration. The other ten members—Messrs. Cox,
Finley, Gaffney, Hall, McCoach, Hetzel,
Frankfield, Buchholz, Walter and McKin-
ley—have preferred, while professing their
readiness to support the new administration,
to stand alone in the matter of organization
and with respect to the selection of civil
service commissioners, who, if unfriendly to
the Mayor, would be in a position to ham-
string his administration. No one disputes
the right of each individual member of Coun-
cil to think for himself, except as the ma-
jority were elected on a platform which they
accepted and which embodied the principles
upon which the Mayor was elected. Fault,
therefore, cannot be found with the eleven
for standing with the Mayor; neither can it
be found with the ten for holding contrary
views if they wish to stand out independently
of the Mayor in order that they may fairly
criticize his administration. The issue is:
Do any of these councilmen prefer to stand
with some of the old-line members who re-
fuse to go along with the Mayor, and thus
take their chances of finding comfort in the
society of those whom the Mayor may ulti-
mately regard as unfriendly to his adminis-
tration?

REGISTRATION COMMISSIONER E.
LAWRENCE FELL belongs to that in-
teresting Swarthmore group of which Gov-
ernor Spruill, Attorney General Palmer, Fed-
eral Reserve Director E. Pusey Passmore,
Morris L. Clothier and other prominent
Philadelphians are members. Two other
members of the group are former Congress-
men W. W. Cocks, of the Long Island district,
who was succeeded by his brother, Freder-
ick C. Hicks, who changed his name in
order to carry out the Hicks line of the
family, which was becoming extinct. For-
mer Congressman Cocks, who lived in
Clearwater, Fla., keeps in close touch with
Philadelphia politics, since he and his
brother Fred are so familiar with some of
its active figures.

PRESIDENT CALWELL, of the Corn
Exchange Bank, has started an agitation
along the line of the Atlantic deeper water-
ways project for increased canal facilities.
He pictures "the return of the towboat,"
and predicts that 7,000,000 tons of freight
will be carried yearly on canals between
Philadelphia and New York when our con-
templated canal improvements between New
York and Baltimore are in full swing. There
is reason to believe that many of the railroad
managers are now coming to realize that
large service between New York and Phila-
delphia will be of distinct advantage to the
railroads because it will create new business
that could not but assist the railroads, which
have been overdone in certain of our cus-
tomized industrial districts.

CAPTAIN JACQUES M. SWAAB, the
Philadelphia Singing School boy who
became a hero in the European war, having
brought down ten German airplanes, the
cost of which was estimated at \$250,000, has
become a member of the board of governors
of the American Flying Club, recently formed
by American aviators who flew over enemy
lines during the war. This new organization
has in its membership a great many of the
pilots in the United States, and a number of
airplane manufacturers and a few civilian
workers of the war. It contemplates a national
charter if one can be obtained.

UPTON S. JEFFERYS and Frank F.
Patterson are big boosters for the New
Jersey Reunited bridge. In fact, all
Candidates are strong for this proposition.
Mayor Ellis is frank enough to say it would
help to build up his city and add to the im-
portance of Philadelphia. There are many
Philadelphians who feel the same way about
it. One thing is certain, the ferryboats are
not so crowded as they once were. A man
menace to health if not to life. During the
hours passengers are crowded in the cabins
like sardines in a box. No one wants to
check the ferry business, but every one should
feel friendly to the introduction of new facil-
ities for giving public comfort and conveni-
ence. The bridge seems to be the alternative.
Governor Spruill is so sure of his
governor of New Jersey, Philadelphians and
Pennsylvanians have interests all over the
state of New Jersey, particularly at the sea-
shore, and we now discover that New York
and the upper reaches of New Jersey would
like to have the bridge as a relief measure
for those who do business with the upper
reaches of the state across the way.

HERE is an acoustic which Judge Wil-
liam H. Staake, of Common Pleas No.
5, once presented to the Five o'Clock Club:
"Faithful
Loving and Loyal
Humble and Obedient
Waterfall
Earnest and Energetic
Right-minded and Righteous
Servant."

He revives it for men who go into the
public service determined to do right. The
Judge is thinking of the bouquets that come
the way of those whom the public approves.

BRINGING the dredge Coraual up the At-
lantic coast by Cape Hatteras, for work
in the Delaware river, is said to have been
more hazardous than sending the vessels from
around Cape Horn all the way up to the
Atlantic entrance. Another argument for
the inside passageway along the Atlantic
coast. But if it was difficult to bring the
Coraual up, let us hope the voyage will be
easier for the U. S. S. Annapolis, which
Secretary Daniels has ordered from the west
coast at San Francisco through the Panama
canal to Philadelphia for the purpose of
schoolship. The sea-going tug Sonoma has
been designated by the commander-in-chief
of the Pacific fleet to tow the Annapolis as
far as the Canal Zone, where she will be
taken over by a sea-going tug from the At-
lantic fleet with the expectation that she
will arrive early in February.

THE Armstrong Association of Philadel-
phia is interesting itself in the welfare
work among colored people as contemplated
by the new Department of Public Welfare.
The Rev. Dr. C. E. Grammer is president
of this organization and John T. Enlen is
its secretary-treasurer. The association is
inclined to approve the administration plans
for special work among the colored popu-
lation, but throws out the very proper sug-
gestion that the work should not be conducted
upon political lines. Director Tutin will
probably agree with this conclusion.

J. HAMPTON MOORE.

JUST A STARTER

EVERY DAY
LIFE

ON SURE, THIS ONE'LL
LAST FOREVER

COUNTING 'EM

IS THERE
SUCH A THING
AS A "TOO-EARLY" BIRD?

THE REGULAR
JANUARY JOB

REMEMBER ME?

THE CHAFFING DISH

Keats at the Wistar Institute

IN REFERENCE to that little brown jug
out at the Wistar Institute, which con-
tains rum 141 years old, not to be uncorked
for another century or so, it is the Quiz-
editor who points out that Keats has had a
word germane to this topic. In the "Ode
on a Grecian Urn" we hear reference to an-
other little brown jug:

Thou still unravished bride of quietness,
Thou foster-child of Silence and slow Time—
Sustained, but never changed, I see thee,
As when thy broken sister lay,
For ever strong and still to be enjoyed,
For ever bubbling at the secret fount,
All drinking human passion for beyond,
That leaves a heart's-sorrowful and
cloyed,
A burning forehead and a parching
tongue.

Desk Mottos

By nature man is the incarnation of
idleness, which quality alone, amid the
ruined remnants of Edenic characters, re-
mains in all the primitive intensity.—SIR
WILLIAM OSLER

Dr. William Kennedy came mysteriously
into our office, and with the air of one con-
ferring a favor pressed the following ditty
what it all means. We don't know just
how it came, but somehow it rather
tickles our fancy:

There is not in the wide world
A roofer so bright
As that chicken-eyed Clausen
Who makes roofing tight;
What with slag, felt, pitch, tin,
Asbestos and copper,
He stows his materials
As a quick water-stopper.

More Wood Alcohol

The health of General Wood as next
President was liberally drunk at a cam-
paign dinner in Chicago.—News Item.

Literary Notes

J. St. George Joyce, the delightful Nestor
of Philadelphia's newspaper men, blushing
permits his seventy-fourth birthday to be
celebrated today. Mr. Joyce is at work on
a new book, "Ireland's Story," which (we
understand) tells how the peaceable folk
came to be so widely spread over this cheer-
ful globe. We hope that Mr. Joyce explains
one thing, which has puzzled us often, viz.,
how the premier of Japan comes to have the
name of Hara.

Jamie Shields, the bright-eyed bibliophile
of the district attorney's office, is vigorously
carrying on his compilation of the Eugene
Field bibliography that will tell many things
about Field no one ever knew before. Jim
has encountered the following new anecdote
of the greatest of American columnists, Mr.
Francis B. Keene, American consul general
in Rome, writes thus:

Years ago, one evening in my home city,
Milwaukee, there was a meeting of the Shake-
speare Club. Eugene Field, one of the most
ardent bibliophiles I ever knew, was there.
After the reading we were in the library. I
saw Eugene Field prowling among the shelves.
Suddenly he took out a little book, opened it
eagerly, read the title page, turned excitedly
to Horace Rubie, our host, the editor of the
Milwaukee Sentinel, on whose staff I then
was, and said, "Please make a codicil to your
will, and leave this to me." Mr. Rubie
laughed and made some humorously evasive
reply. Then Field did one of the most au-

BEAUTY

SO MANY people have made palaces for
themselves:
Made their house of marble or a summer sea;
Made their home in high cliffs that strange
birds kept.
Or in the laughter of a child who never
wept.
Some men find these only in that narrow
place
Under the grass, with those who looked and
loved Death's face.
Who think there only art thou found
alone.
That all else goes sleep-wise, passing like
day.
But I have a more beautiful place to see.
That is mine only, there I do I have thee.
That shall be as long as there are eyes to
gaze—
The face of my first love, all bright with
love's amazement.
—Harold Lewis Cook, in the London West-
minster Gazette.

Among the things on which the lid
should be clamped are the ash and garbage
cans that garish (if you know what we
mean) the sidewalks.

It may be that we have wasted so much
time hunting profiteers that we have neg-
lected opportunities to increase production
and reduce cost.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. Of what state is General Leonard Wood
a native?

2. What is an estedddof?

3. Who were the Furies?

4. What is pscicelature?

5. What is the correct pronunciation of
the word dais?

6. In how many wars with the Boers did
Great Britain engage?

7. What is "fox-fire" and why is it so-
called?